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OTHER MATTERS

Report on the workshop on the new UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories and options to address challenges facing Annex I Parties with economies in transition in preparing greenhouse gas inventories

Note by the secretariat

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its tenth session, encouraged Parties included in Annex I to the Convention to support the efforts of those Annex I Parties with economies in transition aimed at improving the quality of their national greenhouse gas inventories, including the reporting of inventory data using the common reporting format and the archiving of the inventory data (FCCC/SBSTA/1999/6, para. 27 (c)). It also requested the secretariat, taking into account the advice of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other relevant organizations, to develop the software tools needed to facilitate reporting by Parties using the common reporting format (FCCC/SBSTA/1999/6, para. 27 (f)).

2. At its eleventh session, the SBSTA noted the need to improve the quality of national greenhouse gas inventories of Annex I Parties with economies in transition, and of the reporting of inventory data using the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories. In this regard, the SBSTA welcomed the offer of support by the Government of Switzerland for a workshop on issues relating to greenhouse gas inventories of Annex I Parties with economies in transition to be held in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December 1999 (FCCC/SBSTA/1999/14, para. 37 (b)).

3. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a report on the workshop, including information on the special needs of the Annex I Parties with economies in transition, for consideration by the SBSTA at its twelfth session (FCCC/SBSTA/1999/14, para. 37 (c)).

B. Scope of the note

4. This document is intended to respond to the request of the SBSTA for a report on the workshop, as noted in paragraph 3 above.

II. PROCEEDINGS

5. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) organized the workshop in close cooperation with the UNFCCC secretariat. The workshop was held in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December 1999 with the financial support of the Government of Switzerland. It focused on the new UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories, in particular on the revised common reporting format (CRF), and on options to address challenges facing Annex I Parties with economies in transition in preparing greenhouse gas inventories. The agenda of the workshop is presented in the annex to this report.

6. In total, 51 country and organization representatives, most of whom were inventory experts, attended the workshop. Out of this total, 26 were nominated by Annex I Parties with economies in transition and 10 were nominated by 8 Annex II Parties. In addition, 15 experts

from UNITAR, the IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Energy Agency (IEA), the European Environment Agency (EEA), the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development attended the workshop.

7. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Gao Pronove, Senior Programme Coordinator, CC: TRAIN/ UNITAR, in cooperation with Mr. Vitaly Matsarski, Manager of the Annex I Implementation Subprogramme of the UNFCCC secretariat. The chairman opened the workshop by welcoming the participants and recalling the relevant SBSTA conclusions related to the workshop.

8. Mr. Jose Romero from Switzerland welcomed all participants on behalf of the Swiss Government. He emphasized the importance of accurate and reliable greenhouse gas inventory data in order to ensure the credibility of both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. Mr. Andrej Kranjc (Slovenia) (Rapporteur of the SBSTA) recalled the efforts of Annex I Parties with economies in transition in submitting greenhouse gas inventories and stressed the need for closer cooperation between all Annex I Parties in addressing common reporting problems. Mr. Sal Emmanuel, Head of the Technical Support Unit of the IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme, provided information on the current IPCC work related to inventories, in particular the development of the good practice guidance and uncertainty management for greenhouse gas inventories.

9. The workshop comprised two parts. The first part concentrated on issues related to the new UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories and the second part dealt with the options to address the challenges facing Annex I Parties with economies in transition in preparing greenhouse gas inventories.

10. During the first part of the workshop, the participants were informed of the rationale for the development of the new UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories and the CRF and of the implications for Annex I Parties with economies in transition. A presentation was made on the development of a software tool to facilitate the submission of data according to the CRF and the participants were given an opportunity to use the latest version of the tool.

11. The participants were informed about the progress of the work of the European Environment Agency on the development of its software package, CollectER/ReportER. They were also provided with information about the ongoing work of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development related to the development of an internationally accepted measurement and reporting standard for corporate greenhouse gas emissions.

12. During the second part of the workshop, the representatives from Annex I Parties with economies in transition presented information on the current challenges encountered in the preparation of national greenhouse gas inventories and any options to address them. Thirteen presentations, including written papers, were made. All of these papers and a synthesis report on the views of Annex I Parties with economies in transition are available on the web site of UNITAR (www.unitar.org/cctrain/eit).

13. Following these presentations, representatives from Annex II Parties addressed the meeting. They expressed their support for the aims of the workshop and indicated that they would communicate to their governments the results of the workshop. They also reiterated their willingness to further cooperate with their counterparts in Annex I Parties with economies in transition in order to address common and individual challenges in preparing greenhouse gas inventories.

III. CONCLUSIONS

A. Conclusions related to the new UNFCCC reporting guidelines

14. The participants discussed the new requirements related to the submission of inventory data in the common reporting format. They were of the opinion that these new requirements represent a positive development that would improve the quality of national inventories. They concluded that the 2000-2001 trial period should facilitate the identification of further needs and actions required for preparing high quality greenhouse gas inventories.

15. They urged the secretariat to facilitate the reporting of annual inventories using the common reporting format by making available the appropriate software as soon as practicable, but no later than in January 2000. This would allow for the timely submission of the annual inventory due by 15 April 2000. They requested the secretariat to make this software as user-friendly as possible. The participants also suggested that the secretariat should consider further work on the IPCC software, such as the development of a software tool for exporting data included in the IPCC software into the appropriate CRF tables.

16. The participants welcomed other information presented at the workshop and related to inventory preparation and data processing provided by the UNFCCC secretariat, the IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme and other organizations. The representatives of Annex I Parties with economies in transition stressed the need to be fully informed of all latest developments in the field of inventory preparation, in particular of the ongoing IPCC work on good practices.

B. Conclusions related to the challenges facing Annex I Parties with economies in transition in preparing greenhouse gas inventories

17. The participants concluded that Annex I Parties with economies in transition face a number of problems related to the preparation and timely submission of annual greenhouse gas inventories. Requirements related to the submission of inventory data using the common reporting format pose additional challenges. Among them the following were mentioned frequently:

(a) Lack of financial, material and human resources needed for uninterrupted work of national inventory teams, as well as lack of required equipment;

(b) Insufficient institutional frameworks, including lack of cooperation between relevant organizations;

(c) Insufficient training of staff, scarce information on the latest developments;

(d) Problems with collecting statistical data in general, and in the energy sector and for hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6) in particular:

(i) Need for closer links with the IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme, UNFCCC secretariat, UNITAR, OECD, IEA and the EEA; and

(ii) Limited funds for research related to country-specific problems, including emission factors and estimates of uncertainty.

18. All participants from Annex I Parties with economies in transition emphasized their willingness to continue to cooperate among themselves and with experts from Annex II Parties and to continue to work together with the relevant international organizations. In this regard, they expressed their appreciation for the assistance and support they have received so far from Annex II Parties and international organizations.

19. They also stressed that, despite their willingness to fulfil the commitments under the Convention, their efforts at the national level may not be sufficient and there is a need for additional coordinated external assistance provided through appropriate bilateral and multilateral channels.

C. Conclusions on cooperation with Annex II Parties and international organizations

20. The participants took note of the SBSTA conclusions that efforts to improve the quality of greenhouse gas inventories in these countries should be supported by Annex II Parties through bilateral and multilateral assistance. In this context, the participants suggested that a medium- or long-term cooperation programme could be developed. This programme might serve as a framework for the coordination of all activities aimed at providing assistance to Annex I Parties with economies in transition in an efficient manner.

21. They encouraged Annex II Parties to take into account the specific national circumstances of individual Annex I Parties with economies in transition when developing proposals for greenhouse gas inventory assistance.

22. They encouraged the representatives from Annex II Parties attending the workshop to communicate to their governments the challenges identified by the representatives from Annex I Parties with economies in transition in improving the quality of greenhouse gas inventories and in establishing their national systems.

23. They concluded that some of the most urgent challenges facing Annex I Parties with economies in transition may be addressed either through the establishment of direct bilateral tie between Annex II Parties and Annex I Parties with economies in transition, or through multilateral activities. Bilateral activities could include, *inter alia*:

(a) Provision of financial and technical assistance for ensuring the ongoing work of national teams in charge of preparing greenhouse gas inventories;

(b) Provision of financial and technical assistance for preparing, processing, and archiving inventory and related data;

(c) Sharing of results of relevant research leading to possible improvements in greenhouse gas inventories;

while multilateral activities could include, *inter alia*:

(a) Disseminating the IPCC 1996 Revised Guidelines and the IPCC good practice guidance materials to Annex I Parties with economies in transition;

(b) Training experts from Annex I Parties with economies in transition in the application of good practice guidance and of the IPCC 1996 Revised Guidelines; and

(c) Preparing a comprehensive data collection plan to meet the requirements of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines in particular areas, for example the energy sector, and the fluorinated compounds (HFCs, PFCs and SF_6)

24. They identified the need to keep the experts and the authorities in charge of inventory preparation informed of the latest developments in inventory preparation. To address this need the participants encouraged the IPCC TFI and the Technical Support Unit and also the Europea Environment Agency and the UNFCCC secretariat to:

(a) Communicate to all Parties, and particularly technical experts from Annex I Parties with economies in transition, information about current inventory activities an any new guidance, in a timely and regular manner;

(b) Make efforts to involve a larger number of Annex I Parties with economies in transition in relevant workshops, meetings and technical conferences;

(c) Provide technical assistance to Annex I Parties with economies in transition by maintaining easily accessible problem-solving services ("helpdesk").

25. They encouraged the IEA to assist Annex I Parties with economies in transition in ensuring that their national data systems in the energy sector are consistent with the IPCC Guidelines by:

(a) Providing energy-related data for the purposes of comparison with national energy balances;

(b) Assisting countries, subject to the availability of funds, to adapt their statistical systems to meet the requirements of the IPCC Guidelines. Annex I Parties with economies in transition are encouraged to take advantage of the expertise of the IEA in this field and to initiate contacts with the IEA for this purpose.

26. They recommended that the present conclusions should be conveyed to the Annex I Expert Group supported by the OECD/IEA, to be considered at its next meeting in February 2000.

27. They suggested that the Annex I Expert Group and the OECD consider the possibility of expanding their roles in supporting the efforts of Annex I Parties with economies in transition in preparing national greenhouse gas inventories.

28. They encouraged multilateral organizations and Annex II Parties to take advantage of the capabilities of UNITAR for organizing technical training and technical workshops in organizing capacity-building activities on greenhouse gas inventory preparation and other related issues for experts of Annex I Parties with economies in transition.

Annex

AGENDA
Day 1

9:00 - 9:30	Registration
9:30 - 10:30	Opening presentations: Mr. Vitaly Matsarski, Manager of the Annex I Implementation Subprogramme, UNFCCC secretariat Mr. Jose Romero, representative of Switzerland Mr. Andrej Kranjc, representative of Slovenia (Rapporteur of the SBST Mr. Sal Emmanuel, Director of the Technical Support Unit of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme, IPCC Mr. Gao Pronove, Senior Programme Coordinator, CC: TRAIN/UNITA
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 11:30	"The new UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories. What i new? National inventory report. Common reporting format. Implicatio for the EIT Parties. *Trial period*" Mr. Roberto Acosta, UNFCCC secretariat
11:30 - 12:00	"Common reporting format (CRF) *Rationale, Element*" Ms. Sevdalina Todorova – Energoproekt, Bulgaria
12:00 - 13:00	Discussion
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 17:00	"Software tool to facilitate the completion of the CRF. Explanation and practical examples" (working session with computers) Ms. Lyn Rudder, UNFCCC secretariat
17:00 - 17:15	"Guidelines for the technical review of GHG inventories of Annex I Parties" Mr. Stylianos Pesmajoglou, UNFCCC secretariat
17:15 - 17:30	"Basic elements on national systems for the estimation of GHG emission and removals under Article 5.1 of the Kyoto Protocol" Mr. Roberto Acosta, UNFCCC secretariat
17:30 - 18:00	Discussion
18:00 - 19:00	Optional training on software tool to facilitate the completion of the CRF

Day 2

9:00 - 10:30	General discussion on the new UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 11:30	"CollectER, ReportER (CORINAIR software)" Mr. Tinus Pulles and Mr. Jozef Skakala, European Topic Center on Air Emissions (ETC/AE)
11:30 - 12:00	"IPCC software" Mr. Thomas Martinsen, National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme, IPCC
12:00 - 12:30	Discussion on possible linkages between the IPCC and CORINAIR software with the CRF
12:30 - 13:00	"Developing an internationally accepted measurement and reporting standard for corporate GHG emissions" Mr. Jasper Koch and Ms. Kaja Kummer - World Business Council for Sustainable Development
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 19:00	Presentation by countries of existing challenges in preparing national GHG inventories (15 minutes by each EIT country)

Day 3

9:00 - 9:15	"Challenges EIT Parties meet when preparing annual GHG inventories", summary report Ms. Sevdalina Todorova, Consultant, UNITAR
9:15 - 9:30	"Support programme for national inventory systems of Annex I Parties with EIT" Mr. Gao Pronove, Senior Programme Coordinator, CC: TRAIN/UNITAR
9:30-11:00	Discussion on existing challenges in the preparation of national GHG inventories and identification of main options to address identified needs. Representatives of Canada, Finland, France, Ireland, USA, IPCC, OECD, EEA, IEA
11:00-11:30	Break
11:30-12:45	Conclusions and final discussion
12:45-13:00	Closing remarks Mr. Dennis Tirpak, Coordinator of the Science and Technology Programme, UNFCCC

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